

**A Programme for the Implementation  
of Agenda 21 in Pakistan**

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Policy Paper Series # 10  
1993

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**A publication of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).**

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PP- 010- 002- 050- 1993- 015

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# A Programme for the Implementatino of Agenda 21 in Pakistan

Sadaf Alam

The most important outcome of the UNCED process is Agenda 21 which was signed by Pakistan in June, 1992. This document forms the basis upon which new conventions and future agreements will be made as well as a key input into national sustainable development plans. Pakistan, of course, already has the National Conservation Strategy (NCS); Agenda 21 can be used as a reference for adopting means of implementing the strategy.

This document provides a summary overview of A21. A21 is divided into the following four sections:

- I. Social and Economic Dimensions
- II. Conservation and Management of Resources for Development
- III. Strengthening the Role of Major Groups
- IV. Means of Implementation

Each section is further divided into chapters which state objectives to be fulfilled and a set of recommendations on the best way to implement the Agenda. A Table of Contents is places in Annex I. The document takes into account the special needs and particular circumstances of developing countries and has taken steps to insure that they are able to receive aid, financial and otherwise, from developed countries. A great deal of the chapters are interrelated as many of the areas overlap.

## Section I:

### Social and Economic Dimensions

#### *International Cooperation to Accelerate Sustainable Development in Developing Countries and Related Domestic Policies*

This chapter introduces the necessity of an open international economy that will provide a supportive climate for the pursuit of sustainable development strategies by:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	promoting trade liberalization	CBR, Tariff Commission, Export Promotion Bureau, Chambers of Commerce
2.	making trade and environment mutually supportive	EUAD, Commerce, Finance, CBR
3.	providing adequate financial resources to developing countries and dealing with the debt crisis	--
4.	encouraging environmentally sound macroeconomic policies	EUAD, P&D, Finance

### *Combating Poverty*

Agenda 21 recognizes that eradicating policy is a major priority of developing countries and seeks to provide all persons the opportunity to earn a sustainable livelihood. Objectives include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	implementing policies and strategies that promote adequate funding and support for integrated human development policies.	EUAD, P&D
2.	developing strategies and programmes in poverty stricken areas for the sound and sustainable management of the environment, resource mobilization, poverty eradication and alleviation, employment and income generation.	NRSP, P&D, LG&RD
3.	creating a focus in national development plans and budgets on investment in human capital, with special policies and programmes directed at rural areas, the urban poor, women and children	NRSP, P&D, LG&RD

### ***Changing Consumption Patterns***

Specific areas requiring changes in consumption patterns are addressed in various parts of A21. The overall goals include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.	SDPI
2.	developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in harmful consumption patterns	Finance, CBR, SDPI

### ***Demographic Dynamics and Sustainability***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	understanding the environment, population, development nexus.	Pop. Welfare, NIPS, SDPI
2.	taking demographic trends and factors into account when developing sustainable development strategies.	SDPI, NCS, Pop. Welfare
3.	taking into account the aforementioned when implementing integrated environment and development programmes at the grassroots levels.	Pop. Welfare

### ***Protection and Promotion of Human Health***

A21 seeks to address the primary health needs of the world's population by focusing on five areas:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	meeting basic health care need particularly in rural areas.	Health, NIH, PMDC, PMRC, Pop. Welfare
2.	controlling the spread of communicable diseases.	Health, EUAD, Metropolitan Agencies
3.	protecting vulnerable groups.	Health
4.	meeting the urban health challenge.	Metropolitan Agencies, W&P, Health
5.	reducing health risks caused by environmental pollution and hazards.	PEPA, EUAD, Metropolitan Agencies, Health

### ***Promoting Human Sustainable Settlement Development***

The broad objective is to improve the social, environmental, and economic quality of human settlements and, furthermore, to improve the living and working environment of all peoples, in particular the urban and rural poor. The programme areas include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	providing adequate shelter for all.	NHA, Architects Council
2.	improving human settlement management.	LG&RD, Cities
3.	promoting sustainable land-use, planning and management.	EUAD, Cities
4.	promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure – water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste disposal.	Health, EUAD, Development Authorities, EPAs
5.	promoting sustainable energy and transport system in human settlements.	ENERCON, W&P, P&D, Communication
6.	promoting human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas	NHA, EUAD, NRSP
7.	promoting sustainable construction industry activities.	NCC
8.	promoting human resource development and capacity-building for human settlement development.	EUAD

### ***Integrating Environment and Development in Decision-Making***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	integrating environment and development at the planning, policy and management levels.	EUAD, NCS, P&D
2.	providing an effective legal and regulatory framework.	EUAD, SDPI
3.	making effective use of economic instruments, market and other incentives.	EUAD, Finance, P&D, ECC
4.	establishment systems for integrated environmental and economic accounting.	Finance, Stats

## **Section II**

### **Conservation and Management of Resources for Development**

#### ***Protection of the Atmosphere***

Protection of the atmosphere is a broad and multidimensional endeavour involving various sectors of economic activity. This issue has been previously addressed in the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Goals to be fulfilled include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	addressing the uncertainties such as improving the scientific basis for decision-making	EUAD, Met. Dept., NIO, SUPARCO
2.	promoting sustainable development in the following areas: i. energy development, efficiency and consumption. ii. transportation iii industrial development iv terrestrial and marine resource development and use.	ENERCON, W&P, NSST, S&T, Communication S&T, PCSIR, NIO
3.	preventing stratospheric ozone depletion.	EUAD, Industries, S&T
4.	taking note of transboundary atmospheric pollution.	Met. Dept.

### ***Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of Land Resources***

Land is a finite resource and the natural resource it contains can vary over time depending on use; thus, what is required is an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, some of which are dealt with in the subsequent chapters.

#### ***Combating Deforestation***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Obligation</b>	<b>Agency</b>
1.	protecting and preserving all types of forests.	Min FA, EUAD
2.	enhancing the protection, sustainable management and conservation of all forests and rehabilitation of degraded areas.	
3.	promoting efficient utilization to recover the full value of the goods and services provided by the forests.	
4.	establishing and strengthening capacities for the planning, assessment and periodic evaluations of forest- related programmes.	PFI

Fragile ecosystems are important ecosystems with unique features and resources. The following chapters address the conservation of various fragile ecosystems

#### ***Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Obligation</b>	<b>Agency</b>
1.	strengthening the knowledge base and developing information and monitoring systems for regions prone to desertification and drought including the economic and social aspects of these ecosystems.	
2.	combating land degradation through intensified soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities.	
3.	developing and strengthening integrated development programmes for the eradication of poverty and the promotion of alternative livelihood systems in areas prone to desertification.	
4.	developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes and integrating them into national development plans and national environmental planning.	
5.	developing comprehensive drought preparedness and drought-relief schemes including self-help arrangements for drought-prone areas and designing programmes to cope with environmental refugees.	
6.	encouraging and promoting popular participation and environmental education focusing on desertification control and management of the effects of drought.	

### ***Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	generating and strengthening knowledge about the ecology and sustainable development of mountain ecosystems.	?
2.	promoting integrated watershed development and alternative livelihood opportunities.	

### ***Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development***

This chapter deals with Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) whose main objective is to increase food production in a sustainable way and enhance food security. This area includes the following activities:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	conducting agricultural policy review, planning and integrated programming in the light of the multi-functional aspect of agriculture, particularly with regard to food security and sustainable development.	Min FA, PARC, LG&RD, NRSP
2.	ensuring mass participation and promoting human resource development for sustainable agriculture.	"
3.	improving farm production and farming systems through diversification of farm and non-farm employment and infrastructure development.	"
4.	providing land resource planning information and education for agriculture.	Min FA, PARC, LG&RD, NRSP
5.	providing water for sustainable food production and sustainable rural development.	"
6.	guaranteeing the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant and animal genetic resources for food and sustainable agriculture.	"
7.	integrating pest management and control in agriculture.	"
8.	supplying sustainable plant nutrition to increase food production.	"
9.	ensuring rural energy transition to enhance productivity.	"
10.	evaluating the effects of ultraviolet radiation on plants and animals caused by the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.	"

### ***Conservation of Biological Diversity***

This chapter basically adds support to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its goal is the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

### ***Environmentally Sound Management of Biotechnology***

The objective are to foster internationally agreed principles to be applied to ensure the environmentally sound management of biotechnology, to engender public trust and confidence, to promote the development of sustainable applications of biotechnology and to establish appropriate enabling mechanisms, especially within developing countries through:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	increasing the availability of food, feed and renewable raw materials.	CAMB, PARC, HEJ
2.	improving human health.	
3.	enhancing the protection of the environment.	
4.	enhancing safety and developing international mechanisms for cooperation.	
5.	establishing enabling mechanisms for the development and the environmentally sound applications of biotechnology.	

***Protection of the Oceans, All kinds of Seas, Including Enclosed and Semi-Enclosed Seas, and Coastal Areas and the Protection, Rational Use and Development of their Living Resources***

Particular emphasis is placed on relaxing the obligations of developing countries to only fulfil those goals which their capacities permit. Goals include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	integrating management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including excluding exclusive economic zones.	NIO, CZMP, PQA, KPT, HEJ
2.	promoting marine environmental protection.	
3.	ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources under national jurisdiction as well as those of the high seas.	
4.	addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change.	
5.	strengthening regional and international cooperation and coordination.	
6.	promoting the sustainable development of small islands.	

***Protection of the Quality and Supply of Freshwater Resources: Application of the Integrated Approaches to the Development, Management and Use of Water Resources***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	integrating water resources management and development.	W&P ?, EUAD
2.	providing for water resources assessment.	
3.	protecting water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems.	
4.	ensuring drinking water supply and sanitation.	
5.	providing water for sustainable food production and rural development.	
6.	gathering data on the impacts of climate change on water resources.	

### ***Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals Including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products.***

A21 acknowledges that lack of scientific information and resources is a major problem for developing countries. Objectives in this area include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	expanding and accelerating the international assessment of chemical risks.	?, EUAD, PEP
2.	promoting the harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals.	
3.	promoting information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks.	
4.	establishing risk reduction programmes.	
5.	strengthening national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals.	
6.	reventing illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.	
7.	enhancing international cooperation.	

### ***Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes, Including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Hazardous Wastes***

This chapter supports the Basel Convention and the overall goal is to prevent and minimize the generation of hazardous wastes as well as to safely manage these wastes. Activity areas include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	promoting the prevention and minimization of hazardous waste.	?, EUAD, PEPA
2.	building institutional capacities in hazardous waste management.	
3.	promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the management of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.	
4.	preventing illegal traffic in hazardous wastes.	

### ***Environmentally Sound Management of Solid Wastes and Sewage-Related Issues***

The aims of this chapter are referred to in other chapters as well. Specific objectives with regards to solid waste include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	minimizing waste.	NHA, Metropolitan Agencies, PEPA
2.	maximizing environmentally sound waste reuse and recycling.	
3.	promoting environmentally sound waste disposal and treatment.	
4.	extending waste service coverage.	

### ***Safe and Environmentally Sound Management of Radioactive Wastes***

The only ambition stated in this chapter in to promote the safe and environmentally sound management of redioactive wastes. **S&T, PEPA**

### **Section III**

#### **Strengthening the Role of Major Groups**

#### ***Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development***

The aspirations of this chapter are basically promoting equity between the sexes as well as the participation by women in the environment and development process through encouraging changes in the social economic and cultural landscapes at the national, regional and international levels through all possible means. **Women's Division**

#### ***Children and Youth in Sustainable Development***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in Education the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development.	Education
2.	involving children in sustainable development.	

#### ***Recognizing and Strengthening the Role of Indigenous People and Their Communities***

This chapter provides the framework for the formulation of national policies, laws and programmes relating to resource management and other development processes that affect indigenous people. The programme areas include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	establishing a process of empower indigenous people and their communities.	NRSP
2.	establishing arrangements to strengthen the participation of indigenous people and their communities.	
3.	involving local communities in resource management and other relevant programmes which are aimed at sustainable development at both the national and local levels.	

#### ***Strengthening the Role of Non-Governmental Organisations: Partners for Sustainable Development***

A21 acknowledges that NGOs play a vital role and as such they should be recognized as partners for the implementation of the agenda.

#### ***Local Authorities' Initiatives in Support of Agenda 21***

As the level of governance closest to the grassroots communities, local authorities are in position to play an important role in the educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable development. This role should be encouraged and strengthened.

### ***Strengthening the Role of Workers and Their Trade Unions***

These should be a strengthening of principles which form the basis for increased collaboration between worker and their representatives (i.e. trade unions), governments and employers in the implementation of measure pertaining to Agenda 21. **Labour**

### ***Strengthening the Role of Business and Industry***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	promoting cleaner production.	B.G Roundtables
2.	promoting responsible entrepreneurship.	PEPA, Chamber of C&I

### ***Scientific and Technological Community***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	improving the communication and cooperation among the scientific and technological community and decision makers and the public.	S&T, UGC
2.	promoting codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology.	

### ***Strengthening the Role of Farmers***

This area includes all rural people who derive their livelihood from activities such as farming, fishing and forest harvesting. Agenda 21 states that it would be beneficial to delegate power and responsibility to, as well as to seek the participation of, the people who are the primary users of natural resources.

## **Section IV**

### **Means of Implementation**

#### ***Financial Resources and Mechanisms***

The objective is to establish measures concerning financial resources and mechanisms for the implementation of Agenda 21. This includes:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	providing new and additional financial resources which are both adequate and predictable.	EAD
2.	encouraging the full use and continuing qualitative improvement of funding mechanisms.	

#### ***Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology, Cooperation and Capacity-Building***

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	ensuring access to scientific and technological information.	SDN

*Continued.....*

No.	Obligation	Agency
2.	promoting, facilitating and financing the access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms.	
3.	facilitating the maintenance and promotion of environmentally sound indigenous technologies.	
4.	supporting endogenous capacity building through, inter alia: 1. human resource development. 2. strengthening and building institutional capacities. 3. integrated assessments of technological needs.	
5.	promoting long-term technological partnerships between holders and users.	

### ***Science for Sustainable Development***

The focus is on the role and use of sciences in supporting the prudent management of the environment and development for the daily survival and future development of humanity. Objective include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	strengthening the scientific basis for sustainable management.	
2.	enhancing scientific understanding.	
3.	improving long-term scientific assessment.	
4.	building up scientific capacity and capability.	

### ***Promoting Education, Public Awareness, and Training***

This chapter is linked to all areas of Agenda 21, particularly those relating to the fulfilment of basic needs. Aspirations include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	reorienting education towards sustainable development.	
2.	increasing public awareness.	
3.	promoting training.	

### ***National Mechanisms and International Cooperation for Capacity-Building***

This chapter encompasses the country's human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities. The overall objective is to develop and improve national and related subregional and regional capacities and capabilities for sustainable development with the involvement of the NGO sector. This can be achieved by:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	building a national consensus and formulating capacity-building strategies for implementing Agenda 21.	

*Continued.....*

No.	Obligation	Agency
2	identify national sources and present requests for technical cooperation, including that related to technology transfer and know-how in the framework of sector strategies.	
3.	establishing a review mechanism of technical cooperation in and related to technology transfer and know-how.	
4.	enhancing the expertise and collective contribution of the United Nations system for capacity and capability-building initiatives.	
5.	harmonizing the delivery of assistance at the regional level.	

### ***International Institutional Arrangements***

The overall goal is the integration of environment and development issues at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, including in the UN system institutional arrangements. Specific objectives include:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	ensuring and reviewing the implementation on Agenda 21 so as to achieve sustainable development in all countries.	
2.	enhancing the role and functioning of the UN system in the field of environment and development.	
3.	strengthening cooperation and coordination on environment and development in the UN system.	
4.	encouraging interaction and cooperation between the UN system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental sub-regional, regional and global institutions and NGOs in the field of environment and the review of Agenda 21.	
5.	strengthening institutional capabilities and arrangements required for the effective implementation, follow-up and the review of Agenda 21.	
6.	assisting in the strengthening and coordination of national, sub-regional and regional capacities and actions in the areas of environment and development.	
7.	establishing effective cooperation and exchange of information between the UN organs, organisations, programmes and the multilateral financial bodies, within the institutional arrangements for the follow-up of Agenda 21.	
8.	responding to continuing and emerging issues relating to environment and development.	
9.	ensuring that any new institutional arrangements would support revitalization, clean division of responsibilities and the avoiding of duplication in the UN system and depend on maximum extent possible upon existing resources.	

### ***International Legal Instruments and Mechanisms***

The overall ambition of the review and development of international environmental law should be to evaluate and to promote the efficiency of that law and to promote the integration of

environment and development policies through effective international agreements or instruments, taking into account both universal principles and the particular and differential needs and concerns for all countries. Activities involved are:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	reviewing and assessing the fields of action in international law of sustainable development.	
2.	establishing implementation mechanisms.	
3.	ensuring effective participation in international law-making	
4.	Settling disputes in the field of sustainable development.	

### ***Information for Decision-Making***

In the realm of sustainable development everyone is a user and provider of information in the broad sense. The following programme areas need to be implemented to ensure that decisions are based increasingly on sound information:

No.	Obligation	Agency
1.	bridging the data gap.	SDN
2.	improving information availability.	